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Nebraska Institute for the Deaf and Dumb reports

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Report of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Institute for Deaf and Dumb, <5th
(1877)>

Biennial report of the Nebraska Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, 1877 and 1878-<4th
(1885)>

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

NEBRASKA INSTITUTE

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB

FOR THE YEARS 1877 AND 1878.

LINCOLN, NEB.:

JOURNAL COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS.

1879.

BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

HON. F. M. DAVIS. Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings.
HON. BRUNO TZSCHUCK......Secretary of State.
HON. JOSEPH C. McBRIDE......Treasurer of State.
HON. GEORGE H. ROBERTS......Attorney General.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE.

J. A. GILLESPIE......Principal and Steward.
J. A. McCLURE,
F. L. REID, } Teachers.
MRS. M. T. BENSON, }
MRS. S. A. THOMPSON......Matron.
J. C. DENISE......Physician.
S. F. BUCKLEY......Foreman of Printing Office

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

To the Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN : As Principal of the Institute for Deaf and Dumb, of which you have the care, it is my duty to submit to you a report of its internal affairs during the two years closing November 30th, 1878. This I am able to do but in part, as the duties of Principal have devolved upon me but a short time, since September 1st. My appointment by His Excellency, Gov. Garber, took effect at that time.

The general health of the pupils has been good. Under a kind Providence the work of the Institute has been uninterrupted by any serious sickness, or death.

Since the last report of my predecessor, there has been one addition made to the corps of instructors. Miss Mattie E. Tobias, a speaking lady, was selected, and commenced her work February 1st, 1877. In June last she was married to Rev. E. Benson, of Seward, but retains her position until the close of her second year, February 1st, 1879. I commend the teachers and officers, one and all, most heartily for their patience and industry, and for their readiness to co-operate in the advancement of the work of the Institute.

ATTENDANCE.

During the two years included in this report there have been sixty-two pupils connected with the school : 34 males, 28 females.

Admitted in 1877.....12

“ 1878.....14

Present.....52

It will thus be seen that our number is gradually increasing. The accommodations are ample for more than have ever been present at any one time. The great obstacle to the progress of this Institution is the difficulty in securing the attendance of these unfortunate children. Nebraska being a new State, many parents

think the first consideration is to secure a home, and keep their children out of school to assist. Others, from the want of appreciation of the benefits derived from an education, or, from their desire to accumulate wealth, retain them at home for the sake of the labor they can perform, forgetting their best good and future welfare. If ever compulsory measures are justifiable it is in the case of deaf mutes, when such liberal provisions are made for them by the State, and their friends will not permit them to enjoy the benefits of the same. Our present enrollment is fifty-two, this being an increase in the number at any one time present since the organization of the school. These pupils are divided into three classes, and taught by the same number of teachers. Being in school from two weeks to eight years, and of such unequal advancement, it is a very difficult matter to so grade them as to do exact justice to each pupil. We hope to see the time in the near future when the number will have so increased as to justify the State in employing additional teachers for the regular class work. In this way only can the highest progress be attained.

METHODS.

The system of instruction in use in this institution is the same as that in similar institutions throughout the country, that is by the use of signs and the manual alphabet, this being the most practical method of reaching the great majority of deaf mutes. Within the last few years, another method of instructing the deaf has grown up—*i. e.* by articulation. It is a question with many which is the superior. Each system has its adherents and its advocates. We do not desire to adopt either to the exclusion of the other, but to give each what we consider its proper place in our great work—the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. Although the language of signs may interfere somewhat with the teaching of articulation yet we cannot dispense with its use. We must employ those methods which will be for the greatest good to the greatest number. We take the ground that both methods can be carried on in the same school, with perfect harmony and to great advantage. That a certain portion of the Deaf and Dumb, even those who are congenitally so, can be taught to articulate distinctly, and read from the lips of others readily, admits of no question. Both my

observation and experience convince me of this. That all who can attain success in this important branch of education should have the opportunity of so doing, is also a question which needs no argument. A. Mellville Bell, while Prof. of vocal Physiology in Edinburg, invented a system of visible speech, which has been introduced into this country by his son, A. Graham Bell—of telephone fame. The symbols of this system do not represent sounds but rather the positions which the vocal organs assume to produce them. This being the case, and all persons producing the same sounds in the same way, we find it possible to convey to the Deaf a knowledge of a spoken language. While in this way they are able to make sounds, they are also able to recognize them when made by others. Since taking charge of this Institute, I have introduced this system, but not having sufficient time to devote to it, I recommend that a teacher of articulation be employed. I do this knowing that the advantage derived from this necessary expense will be commensurate with all that it costs the State.

TRADES.

The design of the Institute is the education of those children of the State who, by reason of deafness, cannot be instructed in the common schools; it includes much more than pertains to the ordinary school; the training which belongs to the home; the intellectual culture of the common schools; the moral culture which these unfortunates can receive only from those who understand them; and also mechanical training which will secure to them self support. The objects sought to be gained should be to take these children, deprived of one of the most important senses, from a position of helplessness, and elevate them to one of independence, making of them honest, self-supporting citizens, capable of sharing the burdens of society.

The difficulty experienced by the outside world in communication with the Deaf and Dumb, debars them from receiving that training in artizanship which would bring them a support in after life. The time and place to secure this training is while they are under the fostering care of these institutions, with those who are interested in their welfare, and can communicate readily with them. It has been the experience of older institutions that the pupils can be

employed from two to three hours a day in learning some trade without detriment to their intellectual progress. It is, moreover, an advantage, in that it cultivates in them habits of industry. So far in this Institute, provision has been made for instruction in but one trade—printing. Thirteen boys are learning this trade, some of whom have become quite respectable compositors. They print the Mute Journal of Nebraska, a monthly publication—which for its typographical beauty and neatness, is second to no mute paper in the land.

The trade of printing is not sufficient for an institution of this kind. Many have no taste for it, others no ability in this direction. For these reasons I would recommend that a suitable building be erected, and provision made for two additional trades to be introduced at the earliest time possible.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Considering cleanliness one of the great promoters of healthfulness, we have arranged two bath rooms—one for the boys and one for the girls—with iron tubs suitable for bathing purposes. Heretofore the facilities have been the common washtubs, which were inconvenient, and illy fitted for that purpose. The boys have had no reading room. We have partitioned one of the school rooms, and made a very comfortable reading room, which adds greatly to the pleasure and progress of the older boys. A great waste was attached to the practice of piling coal in the yard. For the sake of economy in this direction, we have built a coal-house, which we also find a great convenience. Of the other improvements made, we may mention the grading which has been done west of the buildings and at the south side of the new wing. This is quite an advantage to the Institute, as it opens a road south of the buildings, and removes the bank west, thus opening an escape for the water.

Other improvements are necessary. I would respectfully call your attention to the inadequate supply of water for the Institute. At present we obtain our supplies from wells and cisterns; the latter, of course, in a dry time are unavailable, and the former insufficient. I recommend that provision be made to supply this pressing need. It is a source of great anxiety on the part of those in charge, and

of danger to life and property in case of fire. A windmill with the necessary well, tanks, etc., should be provided. They would cost the state but a small amount, and would be of decided advantage to the Institute.

The following estimates are submitted for the current expenses for the next two years:

NAMES.	EMPLOYMENT.	COMPENSATION.
J. A. Gillespie,	Principal and Steward,	per year, \$1200.00
John A. McClure,	Teacher,	" " 850.00
Fred L. Reid,	"	" " 600.00
— — —	"	" " 400.00
— — —	"	" " 400.00
Sarah A. Thompson,	Matron,	" " 400.00
J. C. Denise,	Physician,	" " 250.00
Stephen F. Buckley,	Foreman Printing Office,	" " 240.00
— — —	Foreman of Shops,	" " 300.00
Wages for Help,	- - - - -	1600.00
Living Expenses,	- - - - -	4000.00
Clothing for the Poor,	- - - - -	300.00
Feed for Animals,	- - - - -	350.00
Drugs and Medicines,	- - - - -	100.00
Books and Stationery,	- - - - -	150.00
Fuel,	- - - - -	1200.00
Beds and Bedding,	- - - - -	300.00
Furniture,	- - - - -	300.00
Library,	- - - - -	100.00
Total,	- - - - -	\$13,640.00

IMPROVEMENTS.

For Work Shop,	- - - - -	\$3000.00
For Wind Mill, Well, Tanks, &c.,	- - - - -	500.00
Total,	- - - - -	\$3500.00

In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you for your confidence, and for the honor extended by you in trusting me with the administration of the affairs of this Institute. I trust that with increased

experience I will be better prepared to discharge the arduous duties devolving upon me.

Commending the Institute and its interests to your kind care, and to the generous sympathy of the Legislature of this great State, this, my first report, is

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. GILLESPIE, *Principal.*

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN: In making my annual report I take pleasure in stating that good health generally has prevailed among the inmates. For another year the record is that not a death, serious accident, or disease has occurred.

While malarial diseases have prevailed throughout the country, there were only a few mild cases in the Institute. Last winter a few were attacked with mumps, and in October last quite a number with tonsilitis; due partly to sudden changes of temperature, and partly to unknown atmospheric causes.

The new building furnishes ample conveniences for the isolation of the sick, and the employment of a nurse supplies a long neglected want.

The policy of the Board in furnishing a great abundance and variety of provisions for this class of unfortunates cannot be too highly commended, as their standard of vitality is usually low.

The bath rooms lately fitted up, and the reading rooms furnished, will be valuable adjuncts to the hygienic department, and to this end, also, I heartily endorse the Superintendent's recommendation for the erection of work-shops.

In conclusion, I beg leave to call your attention to the incompleteness of the Institute records, and recommend that they be remodeled and greatly enlarged.

Respectfully yours,

J. O. DENISE, M. D.

OMAHA, December 6th, 1878.

LIST OF PUPILS.

MALES.

NAME	AGE	ADMISSION	POST OFFICE	COUNTY
Boatright, Arthur.....	8	Sept. 20, 1877	Osceola	Polk
Bowman, Oliver.....	8	Sept. 20, 1876	Swaburgh	Dodge
Cane, James.....	10	Sept. 22, 1876	Kenesaw	Adams
Chinnock, Nelson.....	14	Sept. 24, 1877	Dewitt	Saline
Clark, John.....	13	Sept. 20, 1874	Beaver City	Furnas
Collins, Charles.....	7	Aug. 31, 1869	Falls City	Richardson
Dickinson, Arthur.....	12	Jan. 20, 1874	Omaha	Douglas
Edgerton, Francis.....	24	Sept. 28, 1876	Schuyler	Colfax
Freeman, Samuel.....	14	Oct. 20, 1870	Sheridan	Nemaha
Fountain, Alfred.....	13	Oct. 13, 1874	Osco	Kearney
Forney, Thomas.....	13	Sept. 3, 1872	Falls City	Richardson
Gutting, August.....	8	Oct. 7, 1874	Omaha	Douglas
Hasberger, Daniel.....	7	June 17, 1869	Schuyler	Colfax
Hawver, George.....	7	Apr. 6, 1878	Omaha	Douglas
Hileman, Joseph.....	10	Dec. 18, 1877	Dakota City	Dakota
Hoppes, John.....	12	Sept. 9, 1873	Salem	Richardson
Justice, Jackson.....	22	Oct. 27, 1878	Syracuse	Otoe
Kelly, Daniel.....	9	Apr. 11, 1872	Florence	Douglas
Klein, William.....	15	May 20, 1878	Omaha	Douglas
Loucks, Joseph.....	12	Sept. 3, 1872	Falls City	Richardson
McDonald, George.....	6	Oct. 13, 1878	North Platte	Lincoln
McKee, Fred.....	10	Mar. 3, 1877	Syracuse	Otoe
Morris, Fred.....		Feb. 1, 1877	Wisner	Cuming
Mount, Floyd.....	9	Jan. 29, 1870	Omaha	Douglas
Nettleton, Oliver.....	12	Dec. 21, 1875	Dewitt	Saline
Page, Ottie.....	10	Mar. —, 1877	Omaha	Douglas
Porter, Orrin.....	10	Oct. 7, 1878	Fairbury	Jefferson
Redfield, Charles.....	7	Apr. 6, 1869	Omaha	Douglas
Robinson, James.....	11	Sept. 3, 1878	Falls City	Richardson
Staats, John.....	9	Sept. 19, 1878	Fremont	Dodge
Sullivan, William.....	8	Sept. 25, 1874	Vesta	Johnson
Unwin, William.....	9	Sept. 19, 1877	Central City	Merrick
Waring, Elliott.....	18	Oct. 29, 1878	Seward	Seward
Wilburn, William.....		 1877	Omaha	Douglas

LIST OF PUPILS.

FEMALES.

NAME	AGE	ADMISSION	POST OFFICE	COUNTY
Allen, Martha.....	8	Sept. 9, 1874	Ft. Calhoun	Washington
Bell, ———	16	Nov. 25, 1878	Seward	Seward
Black, Linda.....	8	Oct. 17, 1878	Central City	Merrick
Blue, A. N.....	25	Oct. 3, 1877	Nebr. City	Otoe
Brannon, Amanda.....	11	Nov. 3, 1877	Wilber	Saline
Brannon, Sarah.....	16	Nov. 3, 1877	Wilber	Saline
Brooks, Caroline.....	12	Oct. 25, 1872	Urban	Butler
Butrick, Lucy.....	10	Sept. 9, 1874	Falls City	Richardson
Callahan, Catherine.....	11	Apr. 1, 1869	Omaha	Douglas
Collins, Nellie.....	9	Aug. 31, 1869	Falls City	Richardson
Collins, Elizabeth.....	12	Sept. 9, 1874	Falls City	Richardson
Gallagher, Ellen.....	12	Sept. 30, 1876	Cloudy	Cuming
Green, Ida.....	16	Sept. 9, 1874	Fremont	Dodge
Goodrow, Mary.....	7	Sept. 25, 1871	Tips Branch	Pawnee
Hahn, Clara.....	14	Apr. 1, 1875	Omaha	Douglas
Hoppes, Mary.....	18	Sept. 9, 1873	Salem	Richardson
Hoppes, Nancy.....	9	Sept. 9, 1873	Salem	Richardson
Ide, Ella.....	18	Sept. 20, 1875	Inland	Adams
Kerr, Ida.....	8	Sept. 20, 1878	Harvard	Clay
Kiddell, May.....	10	Apr. 1, 1878	Nebr. City	Otoe
McBride, Laura.....	19	Dec. 2, 1878	Ulysses	Butler
McIntosh, Linnora.....	18	Dec. 2, 1878	Ulysses	Butler
Miller, Minnie.....	8	Sept. 9, 1874	Omaha	Douglas
Norman, Josephine.....	11	Oct. 12, 1870	Nebr. City	Otoe
Smith, Elizabeth.....	10	Dec. 14, 1875	Salem	Richardson
Thompson, Alice.....	12	Dec. 3, 1872	Fairbury	Jefferson
Toner, Mary.....	9	Oct. 1, 1877	Omaha	Douglas
Waybright, Dina.....	13	Apr. 19, 1872	Omaha	Douglas

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

I. The Nebraska Institute for the Deaf and Dumb is educational, and children of parents living in the State are admitted to its privileges FREE.

II. The applicant for admission must be of good moral habits, between the age of seven and twenty-five, of sound mind, and free from contagious disease. Persons either younger or older may be admitted at the discretion of the authorities.

III. Each pupil should come with suitable clothing to last one year. The clothing should be marked. A few dollars should be left with the Principal for repair of shoes, etc.

IV. No pupil will be allowed to leave the Institute before the close of the term, without permission of the Principal.

V. Pupils will be required to conform alike to the Rules and Regulations.

VI. Applications for admission, or information, should be made to the Principal of the Institute for Deaf and Dumb, Omaha, Nebraska.

VII. Information is required, before entering, on the following points :

1. Full name of applicant, and residence.
2. Year, month, and day of birth.
3. Cause of deafness, (if known).
4. Whether deaf from birth ?
5. If not, at what age and from what cause ?
6. Has the child had scarlet fever, measles, or whooping cough ?
7. Has the child been vaccinated ?
8. Are there any deaf and dumb relations ?
9. Are the parents related ?
10. Name and post office address of parents.

VIII. There will be one session each year, which will begin on the first Wednesday after the third Tuesday of September, and close on the first Wednesday after the third Tuesday of June. It is of the utmost importance that all should be present at the commencement of the session.